

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARAMA 00847 121916Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08
SS-15 SP-02 NSC-05 OES-07 L-03 PM-05 DODE-00
TRSE-00 DOE-15 SOE-02 /099 W
-----034511 130052Z /70

R 121311Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4408
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARAMARIBO 847
THIS MESSAGE CONTAINS PROPRIETARY INFORMATION

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG EMIN NS US
SUBJ: ESSO EXPLORATION OFF SURINAM A DISAPPOINTMENT

REF: PARAMARIBO A06 AND A-14

1. HEAD OF ESSO DRILLING OPERATION WHICH HAS BEEN UNDERWAY
OFF THE COAST OF SURINAM SINCE LAST NOVEMBER TOLD EMBOFFS
JUNE 7 THAT WELL HAS NOT PRODUCED ANY PROMISING SIGNS OF
SIGNIFICANT OIL DEPOSITS. THE WELL HAS NOW BEEN DRILLED TO
A DEPTH OF ABOUT 15,000 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE OCEAN
(WHICH IS NEARLY 4,000 FEET DEEP AT THAT POINT) AND DRILLING
WILL CONTINUE FOR ABOUT ANOTHER 1,500 FEET BEFORE EFFORT IS
ABANDONED. THIS COULD TAKE ANOTHER COUPLE OF WEEKS.

2. ESSO, HOWEVER, IS NOT YET READY TO GIVE UP HOPE THAT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARAMA 00847 121916Z

SOMEWHERE IN THE AREA COMMERCIALY EXPLOITABLE DEPSOITS
WILL BE FOUND. AFTER THE PRESENT OPERATION IS FINISHED,
PLANS ARE TO MOVE THE DRILLING SHIP INTO 2,700 FOOT WATERS
OFF THE COAST OF FRENCH GUIANA, WHERE ESSO, SHELL AND ELF--
THE PARTNERS IN THE SURINAM PROJECT ALSO HAVE A CONCESSION.
PARAMARIBO WILL MOST LIKELY CONTINUE TO SERVE AS A BASE FOR
THE DRILLING OPERATIONS. IN LATER YEARS, OTHER WELLS MAY

BE DRILLED IN THIS AREA BUT IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE SHIP
PRESENTLY IN USE WILL BE MOVED TO CENTRAL AMERICA AFTER THE
WELL OFF FRENCH GUIANA IS DRILLED.

3. COMMENT: NEWS OF ESSO'S FAILURE TO DISCOVER SIGNIFICANT
OIL RESERVES OFF SURINAM'S COAST WILL BE A DISAPPOINTMENT
TO GOS OFFICIALS WHO HAD LOOKED FORWARD TO PROSPECT OF
SUBSTANTIAL FUTURE INCOME TO SUPPLEMENT OR PERHAPS EVEN-
TUALLY REPLACE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUNDS, AS OF COURSE
IT IS TO ESSO WHICH HAS ALREADY EXPENDED A SIZEABLE
INVESTMENT IN THE EXPLORATION EFFORT HERE.
LORTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPLORATION, OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARAMA00847
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780245-1096
Format: TEL
From: PARAMARIBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780670/aaaachxt.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c6bf568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 PARAMARIBO 6
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2393428
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ESSO EXPLORATION OFF SURINAM A DISAPPOINTMENT
TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, NS, US, ESSO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c6bf568b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014